

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add Claim 13.

1. (Previously Presented) Chromium-free leather having a waterproofness, measured as penetration time according to DIN 53338, of at least 30 min characterized in that it has an Fe content of 1 to 6% by weight, based on dry weight, determined after ashing.
2. (Original) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that the penetration time according to DIN 53338 is at least 2 hours.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that it has an Si content of at least 0.2% by weight, based on dry weight, determined as silicate after ashing.
5. (Previously Presented) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that the leather contains a silicone.
6. (Previously Presented) Chromium-free leather according to Claim 1, characterized in that the water vapour permeability, measured according to DIN 53333, is greater than 0.8 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>h.
- 7-9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) Process for the production of chromium-free leather ~~leathers~~ according to Claim 9- 1, comprising treating characterized in that an iron-tanned leather having (i) a waterproofness, measured as penetration time according to DIN 53338, of at least 30 min and (ii) an Fe content of 1 to

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6% by weight, based on dry weight, determined after ashing is optionally retanned and is then treated with a silicone water repellent, which is a silicone.

11. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 13, wherein the leather that is treated is a pelt and the process further comprises subjecting the pelt to an acidic pretreatment before the pelt is treated with the silicone water repellent.  
~~Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that a pelt to be tanned is subjected, prior to iron tanning, to an acidic pretreatment.~~
12. (Cancelled)
13. (New) The process of Claim 10, wherein the process further comprises retanning the leather before treating the leather with the silicone water repellent.